

Kevin McCarthy



EQUUS

A Play by Peter Shaffer

Also Starring

Courtney Burr

with

Patricia Guinan

Kurt Knudson

Leslie Linn

Arn Weiner

Dwight Collins

Alice Travis

and

Leila Martin

Directed By

Joseph Broido

Costumes and
Scenic Designer

Jerry Richland

Lighting Designer

Jo Wellborn

A Ken Gaston Production

A Note on the Play

by Peter Shaffer

One weekend over two years ago, I was driving with a friend through bleak countryside. We passed a stable. Suddenly he was reminded by it of an alarming crime which he had heard about recently at a dinner party in London. He knew only one horrible detail, and his complete mention of it could barely have lasted a minute—but it was enough to arouse in me an intense fascination.



The act had been committed several years before by a highly disturbed young man. It had deeply shocked a local bench of magistrates. It lacked, finally, any coherent explanation.

A few months later my friend died. I could not verify what he had said, or ask him to expand it. He had given me no name, no place, and no time. I don't think he knew them. All I possessed was his report of a dreadful event, and the feeling it engendered in me. I knew very strongly that I wanted to interpret it in some entirely personal way. I had to create a mental world in which the deed could be made comprehensible.

Every person and incident in *Equus* is of my own invention, save the crime itself: and even that I modified to accord with what I feel to be acceptable theatrical proportion, I am grateful now that I have never received confirmed details of the 'real' story, since my concern has been more and more with a different kind of exploration.

I have been lucky, in doing final work on the play, to have enjoyed the advice and expert comment of a distinguished child psychiatrist. Through him I have tried to keep things real in a more naturalistic sense, I have also come to perceive that psychiatrists are an immensely varied breed, professing immensely varied methods and techniques. Martin Dysart is simply one doctor in one hospital. I must take responsibility for him, as I do for his patient.

Cast of Characters / in order of Appearance

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Martin Dysart | KEVIN McCARTHY |
| Alan Strang | COURTNEY BURR |
| Nugget | DWIGHT COLLINS |
| Nurse | ALICE TRAVIS |
| Hesther Salomon | LEILA MARTIN |
| Frank Strang | KURT KNUDSON |
| Dora Strang | PAT GUINAN |
| Horseman/Horse | TIMOTHY DALY |
| Harry Dalton | ARN WEINER |
| Jill Mason | LESLIE LINN |
| Trooper | ROBERT RUTLAND |
| Horse | STEVE BAKKER |
| Horse | T.J. BOYLE |
| Horse | DEAN THOMPSON |

The main action of the play takes place in Rokeby Psychiatric Hospital in southern England.

Time is the present.

There will be one intermission.

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|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Tony Mechior | Advance Director |
| Steve Bakker | Assistant Stage Manager |